

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET

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The Soviets are making a heavy financial contribution toward the support of the Austrian Communist Party. Without these Soviet subsidies, the Austrian Party would be unable to exist as an independent entity and would lose all of its political importance in Austria. The financing is effected through the Central Committee of the Austrian Party. The Soviets do not consider either the leadership or the rank and file of the Austrian Communist Party as being genuinely loyal to the Soviet cause. Although some of the Austrian Communists are fanatics and loyal there are few of these, and many of those claiming to be pro-Soviet do so for strictly mercenary reasons. There is also a suspicion on the part of the Soviets that Austrian Communists have assisted satellite nationals fleeing from Czechoslovakia and Hungary instead of turning them over to the Soviets.

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